



3 August 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex- Parte Meeting WT Docket No. 01-309 Section 68.4(a) Rules
Governing Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 3, 2005, representatives from Gallaudet University, AGBell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Self Help for Hard of Hearing People met with Fred Campbell, advisor to Chairman Martin, representatives from the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology.

The main focus of the meeting was the consumer perspective on the ATIS Incubator July 27th, 2005 ex parte presentation to the FCC.

Items discussed included:

1. Scope of consumer and university involvement in the ATIS Incubator
2. ATIS July 27 ex parte brought up 2 central issues:
 - Difference in ANSI C63.19 ratings of handsets at 1900 and 850 bands
 - FCC recommendations about test methods

Test Methods – Aware the standard needs modifying. We cannot endorse disputed points due to technical nature. Now have technical representation in C63

850 MHz – does a difference between interference in hearing aids at GSM 1900 MHz and 850 MHz really exist? If not, then the standard needs to be changed as right now the standard does not recognize the similarity of performance at the two bands. If 850 MHz does result in worse interference, solutions to improve immunity are needed so more handsets pass at 850MHz.

3. Test Results

- Testing on GSM base station simulator. Consumers did not detect difference between two bands with same handset
- When tested to C63.19 most handsets failed 850 MHz but passed 1900MHz
- Informal test by Ericsson over live network more consumers rated interference at 850 MHz

4. Nine alternative solutions for 850 MHz were considered by WG9. None were acceptable to consumers.

5. Consumer support for ATIS recommendation to temporarily allow the ANSI C63.19 rating at 1900 MHz to be applied to 850 MHz is based on the data presented for GSM, the time constraints, and the fact that none of the other solutions were acceptable.

It has never been our intention that the 850 MHz band be exempt from the rule but only to go on the working assumption (based on data) that a pass at 1900 MHz is a pass at 850MHz.

6. Consumer Concerns with the ATIS Recommendation

- Recommendation is extended to other technologies but no tests have been done with these (CDMA, iDen)
- Not comfortable with any class of phone being exempt from the rule
- No time limitation on “short term” or duration of waiver
- Length of time it will take to revise the C63 standard
- Further field studies on live networks need to be done to validate the lab findings re 850 and 1900 in real world conditions and with a larger selection of handsets
- Some companies may take the position that passing at 1900 is all that is necessary and turn off 850 capability or provide single band handsets to carriers that have both bands in their networks. Consumers need more flexibility not less in their choice of carrier given the recent mergers

- No attempt made at real design solutions. This may be short sighted given the problems that are predicted for finding T-coil compatibility solutions
- Extra time needed to find a solution for 850 MHz will take attention away from work on T-coil compatibility which is due in a year

Yours truly,

Brenda Battat
Associate Executive Director
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